tillers of the soil. A misfortune has befallen these poor people. The great majority of them lived on the land they tilled and for uncounted generations were cared for by the landlords. With the partition of property, following upon recent social legislation, estates came to be split up and to a great extent the holdings became so small that apparently in many cases the proprietor found himself unable to house and maintain the Pulaya field labourer. The result is that numbers of them have been left homeless and have to fend for themselves. The needs of these poor but indispensable people have to be met. This does not mean that other communities of the landless classes are being shut out. 15,892 acres have been set apart for distribution and 511 acres were allotted during the year. The result is not satisfactory. At this rate it will take thirty years to apportion out the earmarked area. The remedy is not simple. A protector who is not an officer of the Land Revenue Department is necessarily handicapped since all the processes of land registration are at present under law and rule vested in the Land Revenue Department and no officer not actually exercising the functions of a land revenue officer can effectively deal with the matter. The land revenue officials already have their time fully occupied. The Government propose to introduce more effective arrangements from the beginning of the approaching financial year. The appointment of a whole-time protector of the depressed classes, as the phrase goes, will not, careful investigation has convinced me, by itself solve the difficulty.

6. Lands for Ex-service Men. The striking disparity between 4,320 acres reserved for ex-service men and the lands actually granted to them, only 19 acres, led me to direct an investigation of the causes which defeated the fulfilment of the Government's intentions in this matter. A misapprehension was mainly responsible for the failure. The land revenue officers were under the impression that *varavila* or the full purchase price of the land applied for had to be paid by the men and that the concession extended only to preferential treatment and the reservation of areas. The rules were not clear. The misapprehension has since been removed. It has been made clear that the lands are to be allotted cost free and the time for registration has been extended to the 21st November 1928. Every effort is now being made to accelerate registry but delays are sometimes found to be unavoidable because of mistakes in applications : lands outside the reserved area, lands without sufficient indication of location and lands already in the possession of others are sometimes applied for.

7. Salt. It is the hope and the aim of the Government to see the whole of the salt required for consumption in the State manufactured in the State. In 1101 we had to import 310,234 maunds of salt from Bombay and 586,504 maunds of salt from Tuticorin, our own production having been only 407,466 maunds. Things were better in 1102. Our fourteen licensed factories manufactured 668,991 maunds. This is the largest output on record and is the result of better brine and more suitable weather conditions. The imports of Bombay salt dropped to 230,539 maunds and of Tuticorin salt to 322,594 maunds. We hope to do still better this year. The Chief Engineer and the Excise Commissioner are in consultation with the factory owners seeking means to stimulate the industry.

8. Abkari. You will find the policy of the Government in the matter of arrack and toddy consumption in the State outlined in the Administration Report and the measures taken during 1102 in pursuance of that policy are there stated. A further step forward in the cause of temperance has since been decided upon. The auction sale of shops and the licensing of trees for tapping for the next biennial contracts have to be taken in hand in a few months' time. In sanctioning arrangements the Government have decided that the duty on jaggery arrack be raised from Bh. Rs. 4-8 to Bh. Rs. 4-12 and on toddy arrack from Bh. Rs. 8-9-6 to Bh. Rs. 8-12-0 per proof gallon ; that the number of liquor shops be reduced from 1,835 to 1,754. But perhaps what the general public will look upon as more important is the interesting experiment of local option to be made at Changanacherry.

9. Season and Trade. A slight deficiency in the north-east monsoon and the too early setting in of the south-west monsoon affected the paddy crops to some small extent. But, on the whole, the season was beneficial,

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particularly so to cocoanut and other forms of garden cultivation. The early cessation and partial failure of the north-east monsoon in the current year have reacted to the disadvantage of paddy cultivation in South Travancore. Trade and commerce flourished in 1102 and the value of external trade rose by a crore and a half to Rs. 17½ crores, 65 per cent of which represented exports and 35 per cent imports. Thiry-two per cent of the external trade was seaborne, about 36 per cent was carried over the backwaters, about 22 per cent went by road and about 10 per cent by railway. Imports worked out to Rs. 15·4 per head of population and exports to Rs. 28·4. The balance of trade was thus distinctly in our favour. A satisfactory feature is that the imports of rice and paddy declined in value by Rs. 38 lakhs and in quantity by over 21,000 tons. This is all to the good as it indicates a larger rice production within the country. Tea exports amounted to 25,215,064 lbs. to the value of about Rs. 2½ crores and the duty realised thereon was Rs. 3·78 lakhs. The corresponding figures for the year previous were 25,602,045 lbs. and Rs. 3·92 lakhs. There were over 54,100 acres under tea in Travancore in 1926 and the yield was 28,531,100 lbs. The average yield per acre in Travancore is 527 lbs. as compared with 575 lbs. in Assam, 503 lbs. in Bengal, 435 lbs. in Madras and 333 lbs. in Coorg. The quantity of rubber exported during 1102 was 7,656,306 lbs. to the value of nearly a crore of rupees. The corresponding figures for the year previous are 6,279,321 lbs. and over one crore of rupees. In 1926 there were 43,600 acres in Travancore yielding 8,456,600 lbs. The average yield per acre was 194 lbs. as compared with 218 lbs. in Cochin, 191 lbs. in Madras, 155 lbs. in Coorg, 139 lbs. in Burma and 33 lbs. in Mysore. These are all important items of export but far and away the most important were the products of the cocoanut palm which yielded 53·5 percent of the total export duties.

10. Ports. As you know, we have four working seaports, Alleppey, Quilon, Trivandrum and Colachel. In the first three there was an increase in shipping, both in the number of vessels and in tonnage. Alleppey was the most active ; Trivandrum port came next and Quilon was third. The most noticeable feature about Quilon was that the number of country craft which called there was more than double the number in the previous year. In all, 354 steamers and 170 country craft called at the ports. The total tonnage was 873,856. 307 steamers called at Alleppey as against 269 in 1101 and the tonnage rose from 623,772 to 714,896. You have no doubt seen certain statistics in respect of the seaborne trade of Alleppey which have recently been published elsewhere. They go to show that the value of exports from Alleppey has increased by 197 per cent in the past 6 years and that the value of imports has increased by 116 per cent. The figures show that in the case of exports the increase has been a progressive one year after year. In the case of imports there have been ups and downs during the period. I shall give you the figures in respect of tonnage calling at this port. In 1097 (1921-1922) it was 310,585. Since then it has risen year by year until in 1102 (1926-1927) it stood at 714,896 or an increase of 130 per cent. These figures should be viewed in relation to the general trade position of Travancore. The total value of the foreign trade in 1096 (1920-21) was nearly Rs. 11½ crores, in 1097 Rs. 12·34 crores, in 1098 Rs. 13·33 crores, in 1099 Rs. 13·78 crores, in 1100 Rs. 15·42 crores and in 1101 Rs. 17·5 crores. The percentage of seaborne trade to the total foreign trade in 1096 was 12·8, in 1097, 17·9, in 1098, 20·3, in 1099, 19, in 1100, 21·8, in 1101, 26.6 and in 1102, 32·02. It will thus be seen that the proportion of seaborne trade to the total volume of trade has been steadily rising with the growth in trade. The statistics clearly indicate a remarkable development in the trade of Travancore, noticeably in the export trade. In other words, Travancore has been producing in increasing measure during the last six years and marketing her produce abroad in steadily increasing quantity ; and what more natural than that shipping should be attracted to the place of production. There is nothing of the hey presto about it. Natural forces have converted Alleppey into an all the year port and it occupies a position upon which trade routes and communications from the richest producing tracts converge. Merchants and traders have been establishing themselves there in increasing numbers and the Government are endeavouring to meet their pressing demands for facilities to carry on their business. For instance, a trunk telephone

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